

a national toll-free poison control hotline. Each year, more than 2 million poisonings are reported, a million of which involve children, and this new funding will ensure that callers have immediate access to the vital services and information they need to save lives.

I thank the Poison Prevention Week Council, which brings together 35 national organizations to distribute poison prevention information to pharmacies, public health departments, and safety organizations nationwide, for its vital role in the progress Americans have made in reducing accidental poisonings. By following its lead, properly using child-resistant packaging, keeping poisonous substances locked away from children, and keeping the number of a poison prevention center close by the telephone, we can greatly reduce accidental poisonings.

To encourage the American people to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take responsible preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961 (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March of each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 19, 2000, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate programs and activities and by learning how to protect our children from poisonous substances.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:31 a.m., March 20, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 21.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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### March 13

In the morning, the President traveled to Cleveland, OH, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Chicago, IL. In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

### March 14

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. Later, the President was presented a portrait by photographer Arnold Newman in the Oval Office.

### March 15

In the evening, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bernard Daniel Rostker to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

### March 17

Over the course of the afternoon, the President met separately in the Oval Office with the following Irish leaders: Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, Northern Ireland Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon and First Minister David Trimble, Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, and Labour Party leader John Hume.

Later in the afternoon, the President participated in a Saint Patrick's Day ceremony with Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland in the Roosevelt Room.

In the evening, the President and the First Lady hosted a Saint Patrick's Day reception in the East Room.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on March 10–11.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements

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### ***Released March 13***

Statement by the Press Secretary: Belarus: Pro-Democracy Demonstrations

### ***Released March 14***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by National Economic Council Director Gene Sperling and Office of Management and Budget Director Jack Lew on the budget resolution

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Neal Lane and Human Genome Project Director Francis Collins on the human genome project

Transcript of a press briefing by Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli and Ambassador Frank Wisner on the President's trip to India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan

### ***Released March 15***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Announcement of nomination for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

### ***Released March 16***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Lael Brainard, and Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Rick Inderfurth on the President's upcoming visit to South Asia

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Mubarak of Egypt

### ***Released March 17***

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy Bruce Reed, Treasury Secretary Larry Summers, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Stuart Eizenstat, and Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder on the gun safety agreement with Smith & Wesson

Announcement: Official Delegation Accompanying the President to South Asia

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## **Acts Approved by the President**

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### ***Approved March 5***<sup>1</sup>

H.R. 3557 / Public Law 106-175

To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian

### ***Approved March 10***<sup>1</sup>

H.R. 149 / Public Law 106-176

Omnibus Parks Technical Corrections Act of 2000

H.R. 764 / Public Law 106-177

To reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes

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<sup>1</sup> These items were not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.